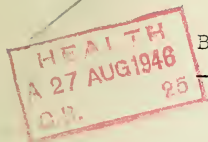


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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 4 5.

W. GILLITT, M.D., D.P.H.
Acting Medical Officer of Health.



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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer:
W.T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool.)

Acting Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer:
W. Gillitt, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
W.E. Norwell, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector:
A.C. Horne, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant:
J. Stone.

Maternity & Child Welfare (Bexhill Nursing Association &
East Sussex County Council):

M. & C.W.
Clinics: L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal
Clinics: L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors & District Nurses (Bexhill Nursing Association &
East Sussex County Council):

J. Gilleran, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.	(Resigned March, 1945.)
A. Borchard, S.R.N., S.C.M.	(" August, 1945.)
J. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M.	(" October, 1945.)
L. Fenton, S.R.N., S.C.M.	(Part-time)
G. Jess, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.	(Appointed April, 1945.)
F. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M.	(" May, 1945.)

Tuberculosis (East Sussex County Council):

R. Dingley, M.A., M.D.

Venereal Diseases (East Sussex County Council):

P. Lazarus Barlow, M.D.

Clerks: Miss H.A. Boynton. (Released from H.M. Forces, Nov.1945.)
Mrs. H.E. Horton. (Resigned July, 1945.)
Miss M. Ward. (Resigned November, 1945.)
K.F. Westwood.

Serving with H.M. Forces.



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1945 as your Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The general standard of health has remained surprisingly good in spite of the strain of the war years, and apart from a considerable increase in the notifications of Measles and Whooping Cough, there was little infectious disease in the Borough.

Diphtheria Immunisation continued during the year and details are included in the body of the report. Although the number immunised was higher than in the previous year, the great increase in the number of children in the Borough at the end of the year has caused the percentage known to be immunised to drop considerably. Over 400 children under 5 years and over 500 from 5 - 15 years entered the Borough during the last six months of the year: many of the latter are in private schools which have re-opened since the War, and it is almost certain that a considerable proportion of them have been immunised elsewhere, although we have no record of this. The total number of children of whose immunisation we have a record bears no relation therefore to the real number; the true percentages are undoubtedly very much higher than those shown, and are probably very much the same as in the previous year.

In his Circulars 193/45 and 194/45 of 14th November, 1945, the Minister of Health placed the responsibility for the immunisation of all children under 5 on the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, that is the East Sussex County Council. We are still, however, at the County Council's request, carrying on as before, and all costs for the under 5 group will be debited to the responsible authority.

A shortage of water was again reported in the Pebsham area; the scheme to provide a standpipe supply is progressing and should be in operation during the coming year.

Complaints of the poor keeping quality of milk during the summer months entailed extra work, but taken as a whole, the year was more satisfactory than its predecessor. Difficulties will almost certainly continue until transport arrangements improve and trained staff are fully available in all stages of production and handling.

New conditions controlling the sites for moveable dwellings were adopted in an endeavour to avoid collections of converted buses, lorries, etc., which are to be expected during the next few years. It is hoped that as a result, licensed camping sites in Bexhill will attract a good type of caravanner and tent camper.

Conditions in the building trades have improved and with the cessation of air raid damage more attention to normal repairs and renovations has been possible.

The return of the Office to the Town Hall in November has been a great help, and much closer contact is now possible with other Departments and with members of the public.

Changes of staff during the year have made office organisation and routine a matter of some difficulty. The need for the return of Mr. Norwell is very apparent, as one Inspector cannot possibly deal adequately with all the work which now arises.

Dr. W.T. Donovan was released from the Forces at the end of December, 1945, and will take over his duties as Medical Officer of Health with effect from 1st February, 1946.

This will be the last Report that I shall have the honour of submitting, and I therefore place on record my appreciation of the splendid way in which my staff have worked during the time I have been here. Without their loyalty and whole-hearted co-operation, my task would have been a hard one, instead of the very pleasant one it has proved to be.

Mr. Horne has most successfully coped with all the problems of the Health Department and has done splendid work throughout the difficult years of the War.

Mrs. M.E. Horton as Acting Chief Clerk, and Miss M.A. Boynton the Chief Clerk, since her return in November, have also done extremely well.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BAXHILL.
January, 1946.

S E C T I O N

A

S T A T I S T I C S A N D S O C I A L C O N D I T I O N S

O F T H E . A R E A

Area	..	..	..	..	8,015 acres
Population	..	..	..	..	18,190
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books)			..	..	5,956
Flats			..	..	709
Rateable value at end of 1945			..	..	£350,305
General Rate	..	..	..	..	9/6d. in £.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			..	..	£1,220

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The remarks made in my reports for previous years in connection with the Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough are applicable to the year 1945.

METEOROLOGY

I am indebted to Mr. H.J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1945:-

Daily meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1945, and reports were transmitted regularly to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry.

Metecrology (continued)

The total rainfall for the year was 20.17 inches, 8.62 inches below the normal. Measurable precipitation, including falls of snow on eight occasions during January, was recorded on 129 days. The heaviest fall during the year, 1.13 inches, occurred during the night of July 8th/9th. The wettest month was December with a fall of 3.49 inches (normal 3.14 inches.) November was remarkably dry with a fall of 0.48 inches (normal 3.61 inches.) Rainfall was also considerably below the normal for the months of March, June and August.

The mean temperature for the year was 51.5° (normal 50.2°); a maximum screen temperature of 78° was registered on two occasions - June 19th and July 13th. The minimum screen temperature was 12° recorded during the night of January 24th/25th.

The full records of rainfall, air pressure; screen, earth and grass temperature; humidity, cloud amount, visibility, and wind direction, together with other daily observations, are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:							
	Legitimate	..	..	129	118	247	
	Illegitimate	..	..	21	15	36	
	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population..</u>					..	<u>15.5</u>
Stillbirths:							
	Legitimate	..	..	4	-	4	
	Illegitimate	..	..	-	1	1	
	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..</u>					..	<u>15.8</u>
Deaths	..	..	..	..	109	202	311
	<u>Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..</u>					..	<u>17.1</u>
Deaths from puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:							
	Legitimate	..	..	..	2	3	5
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	-	1
	<u>Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-</u>						
	All infants per 1,000 live births					..	<u>21.2</u>
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate						
	live births ..					..	<u>20.2</u>
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate						
	live births ..					..	<u>27.8</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Zymotic death rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	.17

T A B L E 1

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes			Male	Female
			109	202
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	..	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	..	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever ..	..	-	1
4.	Whooping Cough ..	..	-	1
5.	Diphtheria ..	..	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	..	2	2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	..	-	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases ..	..	-	-
9.	Influenza ..	..	-	2
10.	Measles ..	..	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis ..	..	-	1
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis ..	..	-	-
13.	Cancer of Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M)			
	Uterus (F) ..	..	3	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	..	2	3
15.	Cancer of Breast ..	..	-	7
16.	Cancer of all other sites ..	..	13	13
17.	Diabetes ..	..	-	-
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions ..	..	15	36
19.	Heart Disease ..	..	36	72
20.	Other Diseases of the circulatory system ..	..	5	12
21.	Bronchitis ..	..	5	6
22.	Pneumonia ..	..	1	6
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases ..	..	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	..	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	..	-	1
26.	Appendicitis ..	..	1	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ..	..	2	4
28.	Nephritis ..	..	5	5
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis ..	..	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes ..	..	-	-
31.	Premature Birth ..	..	1	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries,			
	Infant Diseases ..	..	3	1
33.	Epicide ..	..	-	2
34.	Road Traffic Accident ..	..	2	1
35.	Other Violent Causes ..	..	1	7
36.	All Other Causes ..	..	10	13

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL
MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE
YEAR 1945.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns. Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Adminis- trative County.
(x) <u>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</u>				
Live Births	16.1 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still Births	0.46 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$	0.58	0.53	0.40
<u>Deaths:-</u>				
All causes	11.4 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Small pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

Deaths under 1 yr. of Age	46 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6

(x) A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths
 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$ Per 1,000 related births
 $\frac{x}{\text{dash}}$ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

(continued overleaf)

T A B L E 2

(continued)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns. Resident Pop 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Adminis- trative County.
--	--------------------------	---	--	--

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

Notifications

Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)

(a) Notifications

Puerperal Fever	)			( 3.80
Puerperal Pyrexia	) 9.93	12.65	8.81	(/ 15.87

(b) Maternal Mortality - England & Wales

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infectious	Nos. 142 - 6 148 - 150 Other
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22

Abortion - Mortality per million women aged 15 - 45 - England and Wales

No. 140 with Sepsis 15	No. 141 Without Sepsis 6
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

/ Including Puerperal Fever

T A B L E 3

AGE AT DEATH - ALL CASES, 1945.

	Under 1 Yr.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	Over 65	Total
Males	3	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	1	4	18	77	109
Females	3	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	3	5	4	9	24	150	202

T A B L E 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS & RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION.

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central	37	2.1	1	3.5
Egerton Park	62	3.4	-	-
Old Town	91	5.0	1	3.5
Sackville	46	2.5	1	3.5
St. Mark's	75	4.1	3	10.6

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii)(a) Laboratory facilities

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, under an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

(b) Ambulance facilities

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements for the removal of infectious, non-infectious and accident cases, from that outlined in previous Reports.

(c) Nursing in the home

The Bexhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains four district nurses, one of whom is a Health Visitor, who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. The Bexhill Corporation makes an Annual Grant of £100 to the Association for general sick nursing.

During 1945, the following number of cases were attended:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	96
General cases	.. ..	248

The visits paid were:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	1731
General Nursing	..	6941
Casual Visits	..	669

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

- (i) Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, London Road - Daily.
- (ii) Dental Clinic for School Children, London Road - Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- (iii) Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic, London Road - Weekly - Thursdays.
- (iv) Ante-Natal Clinic, London Road - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the months.
- (v) Dental Clinic for Mothers and Toddlers, London Road: Monthly.
- (vi) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, London Road - Mondays, as required.
- (vii) Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road - Weekly - Mondays.
- (viii) Orthopaedic Clinic - Bexhill Hospital.
- (ix) Venereal Diseases Clinic - Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

(e) Hospitals

Cases Retained by the Council in Outside Hospitals

Under a temporary arrangement, provision is made for the treatment at the Seagebrook and Brede Smallpox Hospitals of cases of smallpox occurring in any part of the Geographical County of Sussex.

No cases were admitted from Bexhill during 1945.

Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. F. Geary, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information:-

"Now that all members of the Honorary Medical Staff have returned from War Service, the Hospital is again working to capacity. The number of out-patient attendances during the year shows a considerable increase over figures for 1944."

The following are statistics of patients treated at the Bexhill Hospital during 1945:-

In-Patients

Number admitted	..	..	.. 711
Average length of stay of each patient	..	..	.. 19.69 days
Average daily number of beds occupied	..	..	.. 38.52

Out-Patients

Dental Department	..	..	.. 51
Aural Department	..	..	.. 106
Casualty Department	..	..	.. 1193
Massage & Electrical Department	..	..	.. 821
Gynaecological Department	..	..	.. 80
Ophthalmic Department	..	..	.. 171
X-Ray Department	..	..	.. 1596
Surgical Out-Patients	..	..	.. 228
Dermatological Department	..	..	.. 5

4251

Out-Patient Attendances	..	24601
-------------------------	----	-------

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council.

(i) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1945, was 11.

T A B L E 5

ATTENDANCES AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, ANTE-NATAL AND DENTAL CLINICS

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic

(a) Mothers:

Number attending ..	..	..	..	255
Number of attendances ..	..	..	..	1314

(b) Children:

Number who attended for the first time
during the year and who, on the date
of their first attendances were:-

(i) Under one year ..	..	..	..	147
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years ..	..	..	..	39

Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b) (i)	51.9
--	----	----	------

Number of attendances by children:-

(i) Under one year ..	..	..	..	1063
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years ..	..	..	..	253

Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of Expectant Mothers attending ..	..	85
Number of attendances ..	..	180

Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers ..	..	..	204
Number of attendances by Infants ..	..	..	27

(ii) Institutional provision for Mothers and Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers, as
described in previous reports, have continued to be available.

(iii) Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:-

To Expectant Mothers:

First visits	..	..	87
Subsequent visits		..	524

To Infants under one year:

First visits	..	..	257
Total visits	..	..	1589

To Children ages 1 to 5 years	1387
-------------------------------	----	----	------

3. Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local Supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Total number of homes registered in the Borough	..	9
Number of applications for registration during 1945	..	3
Homes registered during the year	.. ..	.. 3
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	..	-
Nursing homes closed down during the year by owners	..	2

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S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water Supply

The control of the water supply within the Borough is delegated to the Borough Council under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925.

New sources of public water supply are being explored, and a report of future policy has been presented to the East Sussex Joint Advisory Committee on Water Supplies.

With regard to:-

- (a) Quality - The water is of excellent quality both for drinking and domestic purposes.
- (b) Quantity - The supply has met the demands of those parts of the Borough which are on a piped supply, and there has been no curtailment during the year.

Treatment at four pumping stations is based on a constant quality of raw water from underground sources, and this is shown to be totally effective by the results of chemical and bacteriological analyses of samples taken from the zones of supply. During 1945, 11 samples were submitted for bacteriological and/or chemical examination, all of which were very satisfactory.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1945 in the water area was 960,000 gallons. It represents an increase of 117,000 gallons per day as compared with 1944.

Approximately 98% of dwelling-houses and of the population is supplied from Public Water Mains or Standpipes, the latter serving a few houses at Normans Bay and Pebsham.

The Bexhill water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

W A T E R A N A L Y S I S

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 9th October, 1945.

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	..	..	Clear and bright.
Colour ..	..	..	Normal
Odour ..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	Neutral: 7.2
Free Carbonic Acid	..	..	1.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	..	..	430
Total Solids, dried at 180°C	..	..	29.0
Chlorine in Chlorides ..	..	..	3.8
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	14.0
Hardness:		..	0.0
Permanent	..	..	10.0
Temporary	..	..	10.0
Total	..	..	0.00
Nitrogen in Nitrates' ..	..	..	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrites ..	..	..	0.0000
Free Ammonia ..	..	..	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	..	..	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	..	..	Absent
Metals ..	..	..	Absent
Free Chlorine reaction ..	..	..	Absent

Bacteriological Results

No. of Bacteria growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in:-

1 day at 37°C	..	1
2 days at 37°C	..	2
3 days at 20°C	..	40
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	..	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bact. Coli ..	..	Absent in 100 c.c.
Cl. Welchii Reaction ..	..	Absent in 100 c.c.

Report

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is fairly soft in character, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the construction of sewers and drains has been commenced in connection with the 80 temporary houses to be erected in Preston Road area.

2. (i) Closet Accommodation

There were no conversions from pail closets during the year.

(ii) Public Cleansing

The supervision of the work of the removal and disposal of house refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. The Corporation Tip situated in St. Mary's Lane, in a more rural part of the Borough, is in a satisfactory condition. With the return to the Surveyor's Department of a number of men, the weekly collection of house refuse, from all houses, has again been restored although the maintenance of the necessary transport still presents a difficult problem.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During the year, the district has been inspected and the necessary action taken to deal with any nuisances or defaults discovered. The following table indicates the scope and extent of the duties performed during the year:-

T A B L E 6

Dwelling-houses inspected	..	435
Revisits re above	..	873
Visits to drainage work in progress	..	322
Overcrowding	..	55
Moveable Dwellings	..	70
S22 abatement	..	4
Water supply	..	72
Stables and piggeries	..	2
Rag and bone dealers	..	2
Fried fish shops	..	4
Factories, workplaces, etc.	..	6
Bakehouses	..	8
Shops	..	37
Public conveniences	..	22
Rats and mice	..	953
Food shops	..	145
Other food visits	..	173
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	..	144
Milk sampling	..	69
Infectious disease and disinfection	..	855
Disinfestation	..	98
Civil Defence	..	169
Miscellaneous	..	444

COMPLAINTS

During the year 448 complaints were received and in 418 instances it was possible to take remedial action.

The following table indicates the nature of the complaints received:-

T A B L E 7

Condition of premises	..	6
Housing defects	..	82
Overcrowding	..	2
Dampness	..	21
Water supply	..	14
Drains and sanitary fittings	..	87
Verminous premises	..	22
Keeping of animals	..	6
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	..	11
Rats and Mice	..	75
Milk and dairies	..	1
Food premises	..	4
Absence of sanitary dustbin	..	93
Miscellaneous	..	24

448

SANITARY DEFECTS & NOTICES

Table 8 shows the number of defects found and the notices served, together with the results. (For legal proceedings under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, see Section E, page 31.)

Subject of Notice	Notices		Number Complied with.	No. Out- standing at end of year.
	Prelim- inary.	Statu- tory.		
Contraventions of:-				
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.	6	-	-	8
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	7	-	5	3
Factories Act, 1937.	2	-	2	1
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.	98	-	100	4
Shops Act, 1934.	1	-	3	-
Dampness arising from:				
Defective roofs	30	-	28	14
Defective eaves gutters, rainwater pipes	6	-	5	5
Defective external pointing	11	-	9	3
Other causes	10	1	9	6
Defective floors	124	2	130	22
Sub-floor ventilation	34	1	40	4
Defective doors, cupboards, etc.	3	-	3	1
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc.	14	1	15	6
Defective internal plasterwork	8	1	14	2
Defective staircases	3	-	1	2
Defective fireplaces, stoves, etc.	6	1	7	2
Defective chimney flues and pots	4	2	5	3
Dirty condition of rooms and premises	5	-	5	3
Verminous premises	14	-	14	-
New baths fixed	3	-	3	1
New lavatory basins fixed	10	-	9	1
New W.C. basins fixed	17	-	15	4
New W.C. compartments constructed	11	-	9	4
Defective water closets	8	-	5	3
New flushing cisterns fixed	15	-	11	4
Insufficient flush to water closets	8	-	8	1
Untrapped or defective wastepipes	13	-	12	3
New sinks provided	3	-	3	1
Soil pipes fixed or repaired	6	-	6	1
Defective manholes or covers	4	-	3	1
Constructed drains	54	-	55	-
Defective drains and new branch drains laid	53	-	54	6
Offensive condition of cesspools	5	-	4	1
Sanitary dustbins required	91	-	79	15
Accumulation of refuse	9	-	7	2
Water supply provided or reinstated	4	-	5	-
Miscellaneous	28	1	35	6
Total	728	10	718	143

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

During the year, 14 houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. 325 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action, and 2 following statutory notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The following table shows the sanitary improvements effected during the year:-

T A B L E 9

Roofs repaired	29
Eaves gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	7
Defective walls repaired and repointed	13
Sub-floor ventilation provided	44
Dampness abated	21
Floors repaired or renewed	130
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	11
New doors fixed or doors repaired	7
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed ..	16
New baths fixed	8
New lavatory basins fixed	27
New impervious sinks fixed	9
Stoves or firegrates repaired or renewed ..	4
Existing wastepipes trapped, renewed or repaired	11
Premises limewashed	1
Portable iron dustbins provided	80
New W.C. compartments constructed	9
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated	3
New pedestal pans fixed	17
New flushing tanks fixed or adjusted	15
New manholes provided	2
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed ..	4
New soil pipes and ventilation shafts fixed ..	4
Ventilation shafts repaired	3
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid ..	71
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed ..	57
Accumulation of manure or refuse removed ..	8
Ventilated food stores provided	1
Water supply provided or reinstated	7
Miscellaneous	58

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Informal notices were served in respect of two premises during the year.

The work of rodent destruction continued steadily throughout the year, the Ministry of Food's methods being employed. The majority of the 75 complaints received referred to very small infestations, which were cleared satisfactorily by the Rodent Operator.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food's scheme, the sewers of the Borough were test-baited, and it is satisfactory to record that the test revealed no evidence of infestation. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that most of the sewers in the town are of comparatively recent construction, that there are no really large sewers, and very few disused lengths or "dead ends."

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid under this heading during the year was 855, as compared with 795 in 1944.

The closing down of Civil Defence and National Fire Service Depots was followed by requests to disinfect large quantities of mattresses, pillows and blankets. Assistance was also given to eradicate moths from bedding, rugs, etc. from private houses.

The following table indicates the variety and number of articles disinfected or destroyed, and the number of rooms fumigated:-

T A B L E 10

ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Wearing apparel	..	..	58
Beds	..	..	34
Bed covers	..	..	41
Mattresses	..	..	916
Bolsters	..	..	62
Pillows	..	..	1010
Pillow slips	..	..	63
Sheets	..	..	58
Blankets	..	..	359
Eiderdowns	..	..	40
Miscellaneous	..	..	<u>230</u>
Total	..		<u>2871</u>

ROOMS FUMIGATED

Diphtheria	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever	..	..	24
Tuberculosis	..	..	5
Cancer	..	..	5
Vermin	..	..	101
Miscellaneous	..	..	<u>15</u>
			<u>152</u>

(iv) Smoke Abatement

No action was found to be necessary during the year.

(v) Swimming Baths and Pools

Improvements to the conveniences for both sexes at the Egerton Park Open-air Baths were completed by the commencement of the season. Although the opening of the beaches made sea-bathing possible once again, the bath remained very popular.

All four samples of water taken from the baths during the season were satisfactory.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the Public within the Borough.

(vi) Disinfestation

During the year 101 rooms were treated for eradication of vermin, but of these only 12 were bug-infested. The majority of the remainder were treated following complaints by new occupiers that their premises were flea-infested after occupation by military authorities.

None of the bug-infestations was heavy and single treatments by either gas or liquid, or a combination of both, were found to be effective. In the case of fleas, spraying with proprietary insecticides gave most satisfactory results.

As supplies of D.D.T. were not obtained until the end of the year, it is not possible in this Report to draw any conclusions as to its application to this type of work.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

<u>Infested</u>				<u>Disinfested</u>			
(a)	Council houses	..	1	(a)	Council houses	..	1
(b)	Other houses	..	4	(b)	Other houses	..	4

Schools

The general position with regard to hygiene in schools remains unchanged.

The recommendations contained in the Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1927, with regard to the means to be taken to prevent the spread of Infectious Disease have been followed, and it was not necessary to close any school on account of Infectious Disease.

4. Moveable Dwellings

New conditions governing the issue of licences for camping sites were adopted in 1945, as it was thought desirable to prohibit collections of converted buses, furniture vans, etc. which are to be found in many areas.

Only genuine trailer caravans or tents are allowed, and the sites may be used only during the period from April to September. It is felt that these conditions, in addition to the usual stipulations in respect of water supply, sanitary arrangements, etc. will ensure proper use of the sites, which are intended for holiday makers, and not as 'permanent' housing estates.

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H O U S I N G

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses, particulars of overcrowding, etc. are submitted in the following tabular form:-

Number of new houses erected during the year	Nil
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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	435
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..		1308
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	..	..	14
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..		61
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	..		Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	..	..	339

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	325
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		..		2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-				
	(a) By owners ..	..	..	..	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..				Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	..	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
	(a) By owners	..	..	..	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	..	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	..	..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

Five cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, of these, two cases, involving nineteen persons, were abated.

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S E C T I O N E

I N S P E C T I O N & S U P E R V I S I O N O F F O O D

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 144 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector to cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during 1945.

Registrations

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926 - 1943 at the conclusion of 1945, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 - 1943:-

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	17
Retail Purveyors of Milk 	10
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies 	31

Designated Milks

Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Accredited 	1
Producer's Licence to sell milk as Accredited 	3
Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested 	2
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested 	1
Pasteuriser's Licence 	1
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised 	1

Milk Sampling

Eighty-seven samples of milk were submitted for examination and Table 11 summarises the results. The results of 11 samples of heat-treated milk were supplied by the County Health Inspector.

Legal Proceedings - Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

One producer was convicted, in respect of two separate premises, for failing to cleanse and scald utensils with boiling water or steam and for not maintaining a clean access to a cowshed. He was fined £30.

T A B L E 11

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

AREA PRODUCED	Non-graded Milk		Designated Milk								TOTALS	
	Examined by Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests	Tuberculin Tested	Examined by Prescribed Tests						Heat-treated			
			Accredited	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Examined by Prescribed Tests	Heat-treated					
BEXHILL	7	3	10	-	-	8	2	18	4	2	1	55
VARIOUS	-	2	1	10	6	1	1	1	3	3	4	32
TOTALS	7	5	11	10	6	9	3	19	7	5	5	87

(b) Meat and Other Foods

During the year, 463 visits were made by the Inspector to shops, stalls, vehicles and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. The hygienic conditions in shops can be considered as being very satisfactory.

No slaughtering was carried out in the Borough during the year; meat supplies are received from Regional Slaughterhouses in the adjoining County Borough of Hastings.

The following table gives details of foodstuffs dealt with by the Inspector during the year:-

T A B L E 12

<u>SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT AND FOOD</u>						
Meat:						
	Beef ..	..	..	508		
	Bacon and Ham ..	..	..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$		
	Sausages ..	..	..	180		
	Miscellaneous ..	..	..	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	784 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
Fish:						
	Herrings ..	..	..	3451		
	Miscellaneous ..	..	..	34	3485 lbs.	
Vegetables and Fruit:						
	Spring greens ..	..	..	1820		
	Potatoes ..	..	..	584		
	Navy beans ..	..	..	1749		
	Raisins and Dates ..	..	..	96		
	Miscellaneous ..	..	..	200	4449 lbs.	
Tinned Meat						
	Other tinned food ..	..	..	598 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Other tinned food						
	Cereals ..	..	..	669 $\frac{3}{4}$		
	Flour ..	..	..	882		
	Butter and Margarine ..	..	..	133		
	Rice and Tapioca ..	..	..	94		
	Tea ..	..	..	626		
	Sugar ..	..	..	74		
	Miscellaneous ..	..	..	168		
				1061 $\frac{1}{4}$	4306 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	
<u>Total weight 13025$\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.</u>						

Disposal

Of this total, 4312 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. were disposed of for salvage or manufacturing purposes, and 4876 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. for animal feeding stuffs.

Adulteration, etc.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table, a summary of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year, has kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

T A B L E 13

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	30	26	26	20	4	6
Butter	-	1	-	1	-	-
Margarine	-	1	-	1	-	-
Lard	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sausages	-	1	-	1	-	-
Hine	-	3	-	3	-	-

PREVALENCE OR, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever remained low: 21 cases as compared with 26 in the previous year.

There were, however, sharp epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough; 5 cases of the former were admitted to Isolation Hospital, none of which was fatal. 2 cases of Whooping Cough were admitted to Isolation Hospital, one of which did not recover.

Both epidemics began in the early Spring and had more or less died down by the end of July.

T A B L E 14

Disease	Notifications received (Civilian)	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital (Civilian)	Deaths including Inward Transfers
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever	21	19	1
Pneumonia	15	-	7
Erysipelas	4	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Measles	417	5	-
Whooping Cough	119	2	1
Ac. Anterio Poliomyelitis	-	-	1
	579	29	10

Public Vaccination

During 1945, 125 certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age were received by the Vaccination Officer, and the total number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection, irrespective of the dates of birth of the children, received by the Vaccination Officer was 62.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Seventeen sessions for Inoculation and Schick-testing were held during the year, and particulars of the numbers dealt with are shown in the following table:-

<u>T A B L E</u>		<u>15</u>	
		<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>Over 5 yrs.</u>
Number of children who completed the full course during the year ..	270		5
Number of children who were Schick-tested	161		3
Percentage of the child population fully immunised at 31st Dec. 1945.	45.1%		55.9%

In 1946, a scheme is to be inaugurated whereby children over 5 years of age, who have received the initial course of immunisation, may receive during their school-life two reinforcing injections.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 42, 19 males and 25 females, as compared with a total of 47, 19 males and 28 females in 1944.

Tuberculosis

During 1945, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In addition, 11 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:-

Tuberculosis (continued)

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Death Returns of cases not previously notified	2	1
Transfers from other areas	7	-
Cases restored to Register	1	-

Cases of Tuberculosis notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are undertaken at the Dispensary, London Road.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, either by primary notification or otherwise, during the year, together with the total number of deaths, classified into age groups:-

T A B L E 16

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	6	4	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Totals	8	7	-	4	2	2	-	1

Tuberculosis (continued)

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1945 was as follows:-

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary ..	..	41	23	64
Non-Pulmonary ..	..	7	17	24
		—	—	—
		48	40	88
		—	—	—

Scabies

The treatment of Scabies continued during the year, up to the end of which the number of cases treated was as follows:-

Adults ..	..	.. 50
School children ..	..	.. 73
Children under 5 years	..	.. 35

In all cases a second treatment was given after an interval of seven days.

Veneral Diseases

The East Sussex County Council is the authority responsible for the treatment of these conditions.

The following is an extract from the Return made by the Medical Officer (Dr. P. Lazarus Barlow) of the Treatment Centre at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, relating to Bexhill patients treated during the year 1945:-

Number of cases of:-

Syphilis ..	..	.. 1
Gonorrhoea ..	..	.. 7
Non-venereal & undiagnosed conditions	..	.. 13



